

Remarks

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed June 6, 2006. At the time of the Office Action, Claims 1-56 were pending in this patent application. The Examiner rejected Claims 1-3, 4, 5, 6, 8-10, 12-15, 17-20, 22-26, 28-32, 34-35, 36-41, 43, 45-47, 49, 50, 52, 54 and 55. Of these, Claims 1, 17, 29, 38 and 49 are independent. The Examiner indicated the allowability of Claims 7, 11, 16, 21, 27, 33, 42, 44, 48, 51, 53 and 56. All of these claims are dependent. Applicants have cancelled Claims 2, 7, 19, 20, 33, 42 and 51. Applicants have amended independent Claims 1, 17, 29, 38 and 49. Thus, Claims 1, 3-6, 8-18, 21-32, 34-41, 43-50 and 52-56 are presently pending. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Allowable Claims

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that dependent Claims 7, 11, 16, 21, 27, 33, 42, 44, 48, 51, 53 and 56 are allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the elements of the base claim and any intervening claims. See Official Action, p. 9, paragraph 3. Applicants have amended independent Claim 1 to include the elements of dependent Claims 2 and 7, independent Claim 17 to include the elements of dependent Claims 19-20, independent Claim 29 to include the elements of dependent Claim 33, independent Claim 38 to include the elements of dependent Claim 42 and independent Claim 49 to include the elements of dependent Claim 51. Thus, independent Claims 1, 17, 29, 38 and 49 have been amended to include the elements of their respective dependent Claims. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claims 1, 17, 29, 38 and 49 are patentable and request allowance of independent Claims 1, 17, 29, 38 and 49.

Applicants note that the Examiner indicated that Claims 4 and 35 were allowable (See Official Action, p. 9, paragraph 3), but also rejected Claims 4 and 35 (See Official Action, p. 4, first full paragraph). Applicants have therefore assumed that the allowance of Claims 4 and 35 was a typographical error and request that the Examiner indicate if Applicants' assumption is correct or not.

35 U.S.C. §102 Rejections

Claims 1-3, 4, 5, 6, 8-10, 12-15, 17-20, 22-26, 28-32, 34-35, 36-41, 43, 45-47, 49, 50, 52, 54 and 55 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(e) over Liebowitz et. al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,812,545) ("Liebowitz"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, and the assertions and determinations therein, for at least the following reasons. As discussed above, Applicants have amended all the independent Claims to include the allowable elements of respective dependent Claims. Thus, Claims 1, 3-6, 8-18, 21-32, 34-41, 43-50 and 52-56 are allowable over Liebowitz because Liebowitz does not teach or suggest every element of amended independent Claims 1, 17, 29, 38 and 49, and dependent Claims 3-6, 8-16, 21-28, 30-32, 34-37, 39-41, 43-48, 50 and 52-56 are allowable as depending from an allowable base claim. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request allowance of Claims 1, 3-6, 8-18, 21-32, 34-41, 43-50 and 52-56.

Conclusion

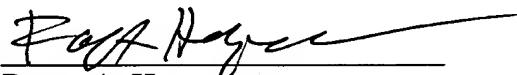
Applicants have now made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for immediate allowance. For the foregoing reasons and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of Claims 1, 3-6, 8-18, 21-32, 34-41, 43-50 and 52-56.

Although Applicants believe that no other fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 13-2855 of Marshall, Gerstein & Borun LLP. In addition, if a petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) is necessary to maintain the pendency of this case and is not otherwise requested in this case, Applicants request that the Commissioner consider this paper to be a request for an appropriate extension of time and hereby authorize the Commissioner to charge the fee as set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(a) corresponding to the needed extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-2855 of Marshall, Gerstein & Borun LLP.

If there are matters that can be discussed by telephone to further the prosecution of this application, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner call its attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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